

Bush

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FM USLO PEKING

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T SENSITIVE/HANDLE

25X1

PEKING 132 06 NOVEMBER  
FOR : BRENT SCOWCROFT  
FROM : GEORGE BUSH  
REF : WASH 133

1. I CONCUR COMPLETELY WITH YOUR PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL. UNLESS I AM REQUIRED BACK THERE FOR HEARINGS, I AM NOW TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO REMAIN HERE, GIVING NO VISIBLE ATTENTION TO MY NEW JOB UNTIL TOTALLY FREE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES HERE.

2. IT IS HARD TO READ CHINESE REACTION TO THIS NEW APPOINTMENT. IN A SENSE THEY SHOULD LIKE IT, FOR THEY AT LEAST MIGHT FEEL THAT I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED MORE THAN MOST TO THEIR STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ABOUT THE SOVIET THREAT.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND IN A TINY LITTLE INCIDENT TUESDAY A CHINESE GUIDE ESCORTING A BRITISH VISITOR HERE IN PEKING, KNOWING THE VISITOR HAD BEEN TO MY HOUSE, COMMENTED THAT HE WAS "VERY SHOCKED" ABOUT MR. BUSH'S APPOINTMENT, CONCLUDING THAT I HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE AGENCY ALL ALONG AND THAT IT WAS THEREFORE SHOCKING THAT I HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR AT THE UN AND CHIEF IN PEKING." HE ADDED "I WONDER WHAT THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WILL THINK?" OTHER THAN THIS VERY LOW LEVEL ISOLATED INCIDENT WE HAVE NO INDICATION AS TO HOW CHINESE WILL FEEL. WE DOUBT THIS IS THE LINE THAT PRC WILL BE PROVIDING CADRES BUT I REPORT IT AS THE VERY FIRST CHINESE REACTION TO MY APPOINTMENT OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE.

4. NEVERTHELESS I HAVE NOW CONCLUDED THAT IF I AM CALLED BACK FOR HEARINGS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, WHICH I FERVENTLY HOPE WILL NOT HAPPEN, SERIOUS THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MY NOT RETURNING TO PEKING. THE CHINESE CONCEIVABLY MIGHT FIND THAT EMBARRASSING.

5. I HAD A VERY NICE COOPERATIVE, THOUGHTFUL CABLE FROM

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

RECALLED  
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Bush

BILL COLBY, WHOM I RESPECT, I WILL MAKE GENERAL PLANS TO LEAVE CHINA AROUND DECEMBER 10TH, RECOGNIZING THAT THIS MAY BE CHANGED BY MANDATE FROM THE SENATE OR OF COURSE A CHANGE OF THINKING ON YOUR END.

6. I AM SORRY ABOUT THE DEALY ON THE CONFIRMATION OF VISIT ANNOUNCEMENT AND OF ADVANCE TEAM PLANS BUT OUR FRIENDS HERE ARE PLAYING IT VERY COOL - ALMOST FROSTY. I WILL BE SENDING THE SECRETARY A CABLE ON OUR VIEWS ON THIS AND WHAT IT CONCEIVABLY COULD MEAN FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

7. I DO FEEL THE CHINESE WILL GIVE US AN ANSWER BY SATURDAY. HOPE I'M RIGHT.

8. WARM REGARDS,

GEORGE BUSH

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